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THE VISION OF THE Lord of Hosts,

Faithfully declared in his own time; and the DECREE of the LORD GOD also Recorded, which is nigh to be fulfilled.

ALSO,

A few WORDS to FRIENDS of TRUTH, whom the LORD is Trying in this Day.

And something to those that remain of that Generation of Men who improved not their Day, but were Rebellious against the Lord, and Treacherous to his People.

With a few WORDS to the *MAGISTRATES* of this *LAND* now in Authority.

By a Handmaid of the Lord, *M. H.*

Mary Howgill

big chain

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The Vision *of the* Lord *of* Hosts, *faithfully declared in his own time; and the* Decree *of the* Lord God *also Recorded, which is nigh to be fulfilled*, &c.

IN the year 1660, in the second month thereof, I was at the Town of *Colchester* at my Friend's house, and in the evening season, I went to my Bed to take my rest in God, where refreshment from him I did receive to my soul, and also to my naturals, having at that time but little strength as to my natural life; And so according to God's will, and the mind of the Lord, I gave up my self, and lay down upon my Bed, in God's Will and Word, in which Word I was kept and preserved.

After a little season, sweet sleep came upon me, and I was some hours in a deep and a calm sleep, which did refresh my naturals, and I was in the Word of the living God, which did keep me and refresh my soul, and after a season did awake me.

And the living God did appear unto me by Vision, and shewed me the dark, horrible, and miserable estate that would come on this Land of *England*, and on the People therein: he shewed me a great Cloud that spread over all the Nation, and many violent and bloody men the Lord shewed me in the Cloud: And as he shewed me that the Cloud should come upon the Nation, so he shewed me that it should break upon the Nation; and the men of blood should fall in great fury and rage upon many, and do great violence unto many.

And further, the Lord appeared unto me in Vision, and he shewed me a great and dark Wood in these Southward parts, and in the Wood were many Pits, and in the Pits were many Beasts, which had many horns and sharp, and great jaws, and great paws also. There was among them one great Beast, in bigness and fury above them all. These Beasts had been long chained and fettered in the Pits and Wood of Darkness, and

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they roared to be at liberty. It was ſhewed unto me that they would be greedy of their prey, even to the ſhedding of innocent blood, which they had long thirſted for.

And when the Lord had ſhewed me theſe things in the Viſion of the Cloud, and that it ſhould ſpread over the Nation, and ſhould break on the Nation, and that the bloody men therein ſhould fall upon many with cruelty, Then did ſorrow ſeize on my heart, and great grief upon my ſoul, and a great weight upon my body, which cauſed my lips to quiver, and my belly to tremble, and a Cry ran thorow me, *O Lord, what wilt thou do with this Land, or with thy People therein, unto whom thou haſt ſo largely manifeſted thy Name? O Lord, wilt thou hide thy Face from us, or take the light of thy Countenance from us, that hath in ſo large a meaſure ſhined on us? Or wilt thou ſuffer theſe men of violence to bruiſe and deſtroy the bodies of them that bear thine Elect Seed? Wilt thou ſuffer the Beaſts to come out of their Pits, their Chains to be broken, and their Fetters to be unlooſed, they being ſo greedy of prey?* Then the Cry was in me, *O Lord, ſlay not the Righteous with the Wicked:* And a great Earthquake was upon me, and I was in great travel in ſpirit, ſoul, and body, for the whole Land of *England*, and little or no comfort had I, until I heard the Lord's voice, who ſpake unto me, and ſaid, *Fear not thou, my Daughter, none of theſe things which I have ſhewed unto thee; but believe in my Name, made known unto thee.* Then I ſaid, O Lord, who ſhall ſtand for thee? or, who ſhall declare thy Name, or ſpeak of thy wonderful Works, or of thy large Salvation whereby thou haſt wrought, and brought wonderful and great things to paſs, as in the years paſt? If thou ſuffer the Cloud to come upon all, who then ſhall declare of it? Or, if thou ſuffer the Night of Darkneſs to ſpread over all, who then ſhall be able to work? or, who ſhall ſpeak of thy mighty Truth? Wherefore (there being upon my Spirit a deep ſence of the cruelty of thoſe Beaſts, which where to be unchained, and to come out of the Pits of Darkneſs) I ſaid, *Ariſe, O Lord, and avenge thine own Cauſe, ſuffer not thy Name to be troden down, or rooted out of this Land of* England, *in which (even above and beyond all other Lands) thou haſt ſo largely made thy ſelf manifeſt; ſuffer*

it not to be rooted out by the Dragon and his followers. And these were my Cries unto the Lord in the hour of deep sufferings.

And the Lord who shewed me these things, he heard my Cries also, and he said, to my great satisfaction, *Keep these things in thine own breast, and seal these words in thy own heart, and wait upon me,* said the living God, *until I shew thee further, and until my appointed time, that I bid thee to publish them abroad.*

And further, the Lord said to my great satisfaction, *I will suffer this Violence to come, and the Chains of the Wild-beasts to be broken, that they may bow down a stiff-necked and a gain-saying People, against me, and against my Name: I will harden* Pharaoah's *heart, that I may shew my Power upon every man and woman; and I will suffer the Violent to go on in their Violence, for the tryal of the Faith of my own People, unto whom I have made known my Kingdom, and entrusted them with my Secrets, upon whom in the Light of my Countenance will I shine, and they shall see the Glory of my Throne, and they shall magnifie my Name. And after the night of Apostacy, and after the Dragon's Rage, my People shall bear a further Testimony of my great and glorious Name, and they shall leave a more clear and heavenly Declaration upon record, than my Servants heretofore have done, and it shall stand to Ages, and in Generations to come, that they may see how God manifested himself unto his People in a day of great suffering.*

Blessed, Blessed are all who wait upon the living God, and hear what he saith unto them, either by Revelation, by Vision, or by Prophecy; and blessed are they that in the Lord's time either speak or write by Revelation, by Prophecy, or Vision. And the time is already come, wherein many Prophecies, Visions and Revelations are already fulfilled, and are sealed up in him, who hath revealed and made known himself by Vision, as I have before-mentioned; And the Eternal God alone hath sealed up many unto himself in his own Seed, which all the afore-mentioned ends in. Blessed are all they that are in that estate, for the blessed Inheritance and Crown of the Lord is assured unto them.

And

And now is the time of the Lord, wherein he hath required me to write what he ſhewed me by Viſion, much whereof is already come on this Land, and fulfilled upon it, and that which is behind is nigh to be fulfilled. The Cloud hath ſpread over all, and violent men have done great violence, even unto God's Worſhippers; And many are ariſen out of the Pits, their Chains being broken, and their Fetters unlooſed, which have held them many years; and as many as have had their liberty have been greedy of their prey, having long thirſted for the blood of the Saints; and many are yet to ariſe, whoſe Chains ſhall be broken: And he whom the Lord ſhewed me, the biggeſt amongſt them and greateſt in fury, he ſhall ariſe the laſt out of the Pit, and will be ſuffered to give one great puſh, and no more, which will be terrible; but the Lord will ſmite him, and the Beaſts that were looſed before him, and God will turn them together into the Pit of Darkneſs from whence they aroſe, out of which they ſhall never ariſe again againſt the Lord nor his Heritage.

And now all dear Friends every-where, dwell in God, the Father of Light, that you may all witneſs his Dominion, ſo will he nouriſh you all, even as the true Woman in the Wilderneſs, *for a time, times, and half a time.* The Lord nouriſh you all, and feed you all with his own living Word, that you may all ſee the ſmoak of the Pit vaniſh away, and the power thereof (which hath for many years ariſen againſt the Lord and his People) troden down by the living God. Wait all until the Lord's time and hour be accompliſhed, in which you ſhall ſee Violence put to an end, and alſo ſee the bleſſed Eſtate that I have before-mentioned. So in the bleſſed Truth I bid you farewell.

And now to you who have put out the Candle of the Lord in your ſelves, and are become altogether Darkneſs, and have given your Power wholly to the Beaſt and his followers, you therefore ſhall feel the ſtroak of God's hand, which will be dreadful to you; and under which you ſhall confeſs that the holy

holy Prophets of the Lord did in years past deal faithfully with you, when they propheſyed unto you what would come upon you: Oh hearken you People, for to you I write, through whom the Nation is become miſerable, and you your ſelves become ſlaves, and your name become a ſtink in the Nation, with him whom God hath cut off before you. Is not your Form of Worſhip and the glory thereof withered? yea, even as the flower withereth before the Sun in the Summer ſeaſon, ſo is it withered away, and your gallant Glory is now trampled upon by the Dragon, unto whom you gave your Power, and the memorial thereof ſhall die and rot, even as thoſe whoſe name and memorial is already rotted. And hearken you who put out the Candle of the Lord in your ſelves, wherewith you were once lighted; mark what God hath done to *Oliver Cromwel*, even for this cauſe, that he put out the Candle of the Lord in himſelf.

And all you Magiſtrates of this Land who are now in Authority. Oh! you have grieved the Lord, and highly provoked him to anger, by afflicting his Children; and you have grieved our ſouls from time to time, and afflicted our bodies alſo, and have the blood of many as a guilt upon you. Oh this, I tell you, will bring the Lord's Judgment upon you unawares, even as a thief in the night, will it break upon you when you are not aware: for, no warning will you yet receive from the Lord's People, and you muſt know the ſtroak of God's hand with them that proved rebellious before you, and when you feel the weight thereof, you ſhall then remember this Warning.

From a Lover of Truth and Righteouſneſs.

M. H.

THE END.